

2 June 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: Contact with F. LESINSKIS on 14/15 May 1962.

1. Undersigned traveled to the town of Los Gatos, located approximately 35 miles south of San Francisco, on 14 May 1962 and called at the LESINSKIS residence, located at 133 (not 134) Loma Alta Street, at about 1030 hours. A young man, later identified as Paul LESINSKIS--the son of Friedrichs LESINSKIS, answered the doorbell and apprised the undersigned that Friedrichs LESINSKIS was away at work at the Peninsular Book Binding Firm and that his working hours were from 1500 to 2300 hours. Undersigned was advised that he could see F. LESINSKIS sometime on the following day prior to 1400 hours.

2. Accordingly, undersigned called at the L. residence at about 1130 hours on 15 May. Paul L., who was again present, summoned his father with whom the undersigned then spoke until about 1330 hours. The following items are pertinent:

a. Undersigned identified himself as ☐ of the Agency and presented his credentials in alias. F. LESINSKIS then spoke freely and openly. Undersigned used German during most of the conversation as LESINSKIS spoke poor, ungrammatical, and inadequate English.

b. Undersigned explained his general interest in the activities of the local Latvian colony. L. provided the following information in this conjunction:

1) The Los Gatos Latvian colony consists of approximately 50-60 persons. Most, if not all, of the activities revolve around the Latvian Lutheran church of Los Gatos (rented from American Lutherans whenever the pastor visits Los Gatos from San Francisco) which is a part of the North California Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation, 747-35th Avenue, San Francisco, Evergreen 6-2841. The pastor who visits the Los Gatos parish is

^{LPS}
Rev ERNESTSON
747-35th Avenue,
San Francisco,

who, in the opinion of L., is the most informed Latvian about the Latvian colony in Los Gatos.

2) At one time there had been a Latvian children's school in the area; however, the only Latvian school on the West Coast is now located in Berkeley (or San Francisco).

3) Most Latvians in California are, in the opinion of L., Democrats.

4) Though L. stated that there was no local non-religious Latvian organization in the Los Gatos area, L. contradicted himself by saying that

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

(2)(A) Privacy ☐

(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒

(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

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by the Central Intelligence Agency
Date: 2005

Stanislavs VASILEVSKIS
Astronomer at Mt Hamilton,

was (or still is) the head of the local Latvians. However, L stated that his work precluded him from participating in any Latvian activities other than attending the church. One

K. HINCENBERGS
205 University Avenue,
Los Gatos, EL 44085,

is head of the former members of the Danga Vanags (phonetically) who have a local association.

5) L, by virtue of the fact that he pays its dues, is a member of the Association of Latvians in the USA which is headquartered either in Washington DC or in NYC (he did not know which).

6) Various cultural activities are presented for the Latvian colony by visiting artists. These activities again center around the church.

7) No recent Latvians, to L's knowledge, have arrived in the Los Gatos area from Latvia. All Los Gatos Latvians are WW II refugees.

8) Sometime in 1961, one

Mrs (fma) STAPRAN (phonetically)
born about 1932 in Latvia,
lives in NYC area,

paid a visit to Soviet Latvia, probably in the company of her husband who is not Latvian and who is an abstract artist. Mrs STAPRAN, who attended the University of California and at Berkeley and is a graduate pharmacist, is the daughter of a local Latvian woman, one

Mrs (fma) PEICA
15457 Strathford Drive,
San Jose 24, California.

There have been no other visitors to Latvia from the Los Gatos area.

9) L, associating this with the visit of the undersigned, reported having received several days ~~xxx~~ ago a mimeographed letter from the Joint Baltic-American Committee.

c. Undersigned obtained the following information about LESINSKIS' background through elicitation:

1) L was born on 29 October 1907 in Riga. He married sometime after 1935. His only child is a son,

Paul LESINSKIS
born about 1937 in Latvia,

who was discharged from the US Army, Medical Corps, after serving a two year tour. He had taken his basic training at Ford Ord, received specialized training (in X-Ray technician's work) at Ft Sam Houston, and was assigned to

to the Letterman General Hospital in San Francisco. He plans to resume his studies at the San Jose State College in the fall of 1962. Paul L had once applied for the Army Language School but was not accepted for "reasons of security" (parents were not yet US citizens). Paul L left Latvia in 1944 at age 7 and stayed in Germany until age 15. He attended the local Latvian school in Germany. He speaks fluent English and Latvian and still recalls some German. Paul L is the pride of the family, and "does not smoke, dance, or drink".

2) L and family left Germany in 1939. They had lived most of the time in the Ansbach/Bamberg area. They initially lived in the Alameda area of San Jose but purchased the 138 Loma Alta residence within several years. L had long worked as a gardener before finding the current job.

3) L had once changed his name to LESCHINSKY while in Latvia but changed it back to the original Latvian version before leaving Germany for the USA.

4) L's father died in the 1930's. His mother is

Johanna LESCHINSKY
born about 1890,
lives Altersheim Krankenhaus,
Fährbergerstr 219,
Celle, Jehastal, West Germany,

to whom L occasionally sends money and with whom he corresponds regularly. He last saw his mother in 1946. Judging from the letters written by his mother, L believes that she is now at least partially mentally unbalanced.

5) L's brother is

Heinrich LESCHINSKY
born KRES 1914 in Latvia,

who now lives with his wife and family in East Berlin or in East Germany, probably Joesteborg (phonetically). Heinrich, who married a German girl in about 1935, emigrated to Germany in about 1938. His three children, Rolf, Heinz, and Ida, were born, in that order, either during WW II or immediately prior thereto in Germany. While in the German army, Heinrich was captured in France by the US Army for whom he then worked as a cook. After becoming reunited with his family, Heinrich moved several times from village to village with the post WW II shifting East-West German border but ultimately was caught in the Soviet Zone. L last received a letter from his brother about 1 1/2 years ago (he could not locate this for the undersigned). L's mother does the corresponding with Heinrich and then forwards his letters to L in the USA. According to L,

Frau Johanna STRASSING
Adam Sengerstr 4
Bamberg, West Germany,

who is now visiting her son in Milwaukee and who is in some way involved in the correspondence between L's mother and brother, can probably provide more information about his brother, Heinrich. In about 1936 Heinrich

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paid a visit to West Germany to see his mother who was then in a Berchtesgaden hospital. L has not heard from his mother for some 8 months now.

6) L had no other brothers and sisters. L's paternal uncle is

Edward LESINSKIS
born about 1883 in Riga,

who died sometime during WW I; he is the only other LESINSKIS known to L. Edward L had one son (nm) who died in 1913/14 as a 4-5 year old child while playing in a lumber yard. Edward L had two daughters, born in about 1900, who were already married while L was a young boy. L knows of no other LESINSKIS' who are relatives of his family.

7) L once heard through some Latvian emigres (no longer known who) that a LESINSKIS, a gardener, was living in Jelgava. Some 8 years ago, L's son read in an American newspaper that a person, named (fm) LESINSKIS, was running for the position of mayor in a mid-Western city, probably Indianapolis.

8) L did not know nor had he read about the LESINSKIS in Riga who was employed as a guide in Riga.

9) L has a paternal cousin,

(fm) * ARENDIS
born about 1913 in Latvia,

who is a "chief engineer" and who once lived at 621 Colborne, S.T., New Westminster, British Columbia, Canada. This cousin is married and has one or several children. He had been captured by the Soviets and imprisoned for his work on German V-2 bombs; however, later he was released and permitted to emigrate to Canada. L has not written to ARENDIS for the last several years as L's letters have been returned to him unclaimed.

10) L's wife corresponds with her sister, (fm) JANOVSKITZ, in Latvia.

d. See attached list for other Latvians in the San Francisco area who are active in the Latvian Lutheran church activities.

e. The following is pertinent:

1) LESINSKIS signed a Secrecy Agreement—see Attachment.

2) No PRQ-I was obtained from L.

3) L's son and wife were present during portions of the discussion. All three LESINSKIS were most friendly, helpful, and cooperative. There appears no reason whatever to believe that L said anything but the truth. Judging from statements made by them and from religious pictures in the house, the LESINSKIS are devoutly religious.

4) Undersigned was escorted through the house and through the L backyard—which is a tropical garden. L has a small separate garden house in the backyard. The house itself, though modest, was clean and tastefully furnished.

5) Mrs L is employed by a neighbor to take care of an

invalid mother.

6) Good rapport was established and no security problems developed before or after the meeting.

8. On the basis of the foregoing, there appears no reason to believe that Friedrichs LESINSKIS is the cousin of []

[]
Case Officer